

PATENT APPLICATION
Do. No. 1941-70

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Paul J. BRUINSMA; Suresh BASKARAN; and
Jagannadha R. BONTA and Jun LIU

Serial No. 09/481,988

Examiner: P. Marcantoni

Filed: January 11, 2000

Group Art Unit: 1755

For: MESOPOROUS-SILICA FILMS, FIBERS, AND POWDERS BY EVAPORATION

Box NonFee Amendment
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Official

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Responsive to the Office Action, dated April 4, 2002, please amend the application
as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of making mesoporous silica materials, comprising the steps of
- (a) combining a silica precursor with an aqueous solvent, an acid and a surfactant having an ammonium cation into a silica precursor solution,
 - (b) templating the silica precursor with the surfactant and obtaining the mesoporous material from the templated silica precursor,
 - (c) forming said silica precursor solution into a preform; and
 - (d) rapidly evaporating said aqueous solvent from said preform for obtaining the mesoporous material, wherein the improvement comprises:
 - (e) providing said aqueous solvent in an amount resulting in complete hydrolysis and providing said acid in an amount maintaining a hydrolyzed precursor and avoiding gelation or precipitation; and